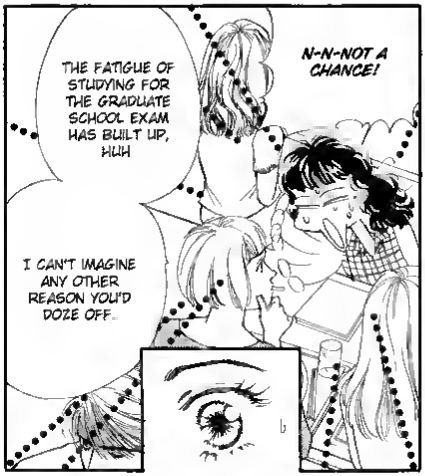
After
Tea

KEIKO
WAKE UP, KEIKO.
MORNING GREETS US AS THE SMELL OF HIS TEA WAFTS THROUGH OUR ROOM
KEIKO
MM... A BIT.. LONGER ...
IF YOU DON'T GET UP, I'M EATING YOU OUT
AH... MM.
I'M SO HAPPY..
OH, YOU...

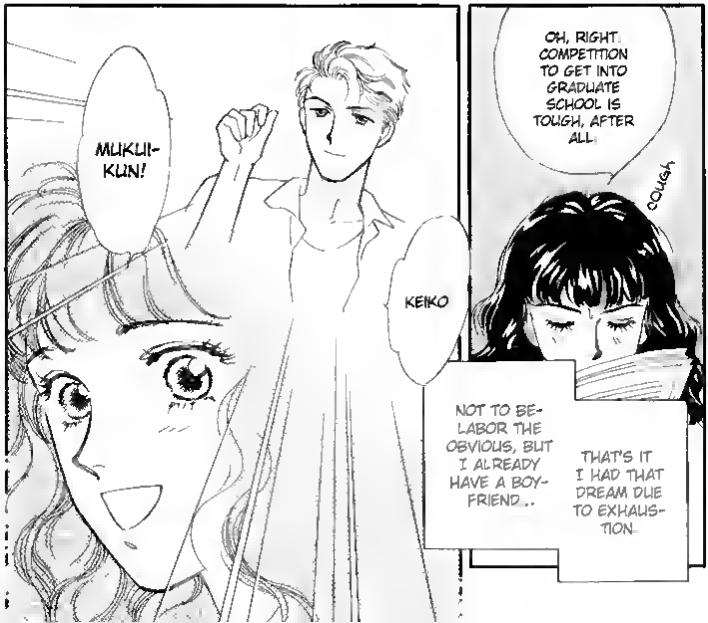
SHAK!
Haah
Haah
Haah
YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
AAAHN!
MIZUTANI-KUN.
SHAK!
MIZUTANI-KUN!
AAAAAAH!
THUM!?
... HUH?
Snap

I FIND THAT, ALONG WITH THE NAP YOU JUST TOOK, TO BE UNCHARACTERISTICALLY LAZY FOR A STUDENT AS STUDIOUS AS YOURSELF.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T TURNED IN YOUR GRADUATION THESIS OUTLINE THAT WAS DUE YESTERDAY.
I-I'M SORRY. I'LL TURN IT IN TOMORROW.
AS MUCH AS I HAVE TROUBLE BELIEVING IT, MIZUTANI-KUN,
snicker snicker
blush
Wa ha ha!
...A DREAM...
...TOMORROW?
I MEAN, I'LL TURN IT IN DURING LUNCH TODAY!
sharp

KASHIWAGI HIROSHI ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT THE SCHOOL OF LITERATURE'S ART HISTORY DEPARTMENT 30 YEARS OLD. SINGLE.
GOOD
I EXPECT YOUR RESEARCH TO BE A WEALTH OF CREATIVITY AS ALWAYS
THERE ARE A LARGE NUMBER OF WOMEN WHO LUST AFTER HIS CALM, COOL COMPOSURE IN THE FACE OF ANY SITUATION AND HIS STOIC INDIFFERENCE THAT BORDERS PRIDE
I ADMIT TO BEING ONE OF THOSE WOMEN, ALBEIT PURELY IN THE MANNER THAT ONE RESPECTS A MENTOR IN THEIR FIELD OF STUDY
BESIDES, I HAVE A BOYFRIEND
SO WHY?
WHY DID I HAVE THAT DREAM?!

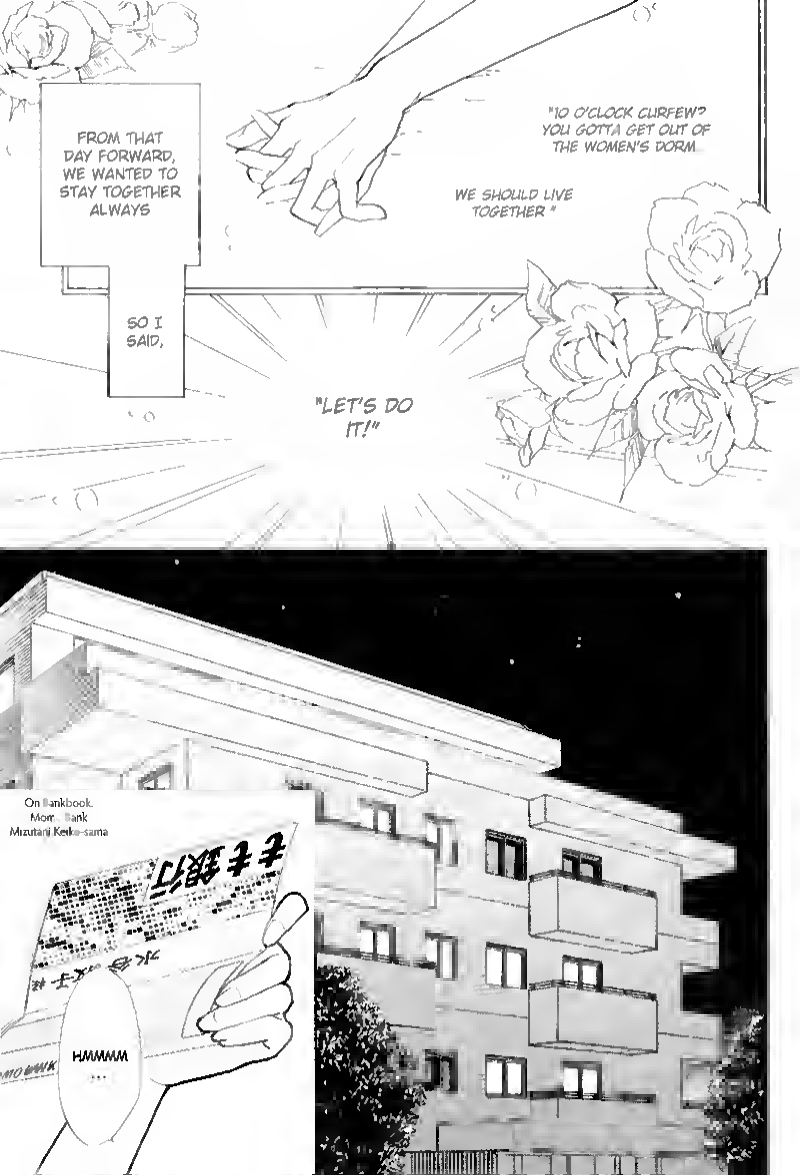

THE FATIGUE OF STUDYING FOR THE GRADUATE SCHOOL EXAM HAS BUILT UP, HUH
N-N-NOT A CHANCE!
I CAN'T IMAGINE ANY OTHER REASON YOU'D DOZE OFF.

THUMP
ARE YOU PENT UP?


MUKUI-KUN!
KEIKO
OH, RIGHT. COMPETITION TO GET INTO GRADUATE SCHOOL IS TOUGH, AFTER ALL.
cough
NOT TO BE-LABOR THE OBVIOUS, BUT I ALREADY HAVE A BOY-FRIEND...
THAT'S IT I HAD THAT DREAM DUE TO EXHAUS-TION.

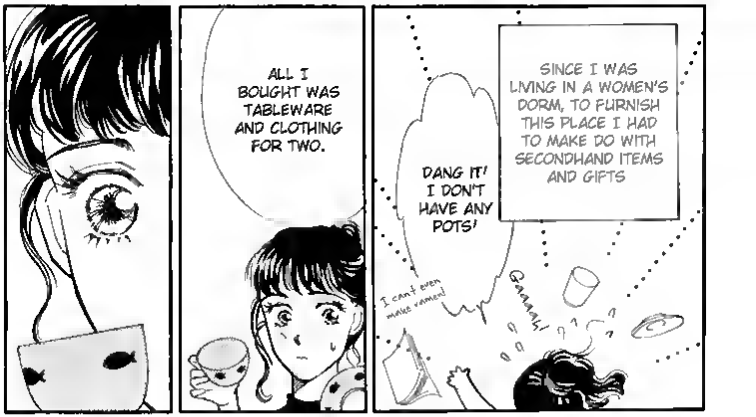
EEEEH?!
THOSE TWO ARE DATING?
SEEMS SO
I DON'T KNOW WHAT A GO-GETTER LIKE HIM SEES IN A CONSERVATIVE LIKE KEIKO..
IT'S JUST.. I'M SO BUSY JOB-HUNTING THAT I CAN'T LEAVE MY CURRENT APARTMENT AT THE MOMENT
WAIT A MINUTE! I ALREADY MOVED!
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO LIVE THERE ALONE? HOW COULD YOU..
EH..? YOU CAN'T COME...?
AH...

I'M SORRY.
WE'LL LIVE TOGETHER SOONER OR LATER, WHICH IS WHY I WANT TO FIND THE RIGHT JOB FIRST. BE PATIENT.
ALRIGHT
THAT TOOK PLACE THREE MONTHS AGO
"SORRY, BUT I HAVE HOMEWORK."
"MIZUTANI-KUN, WANNA GRAB A BITE TO EAT?"
"WOW. I WISH I HAD A SMART GIRL LIKE YOU."


FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, WE WANTED TO STAY TOGETHER ALWAYS
SO I SAID,
"LET'S DO IT!"
"10 O'CLOCK CURFEW? YOU GOTTA GET OUT OF THE WOMEN'S DORM.
WE SHOULD LIVE TOGETHER."
On Bankbook
Mom Bank
Mizutani Keiko-sama
HMMMM
...

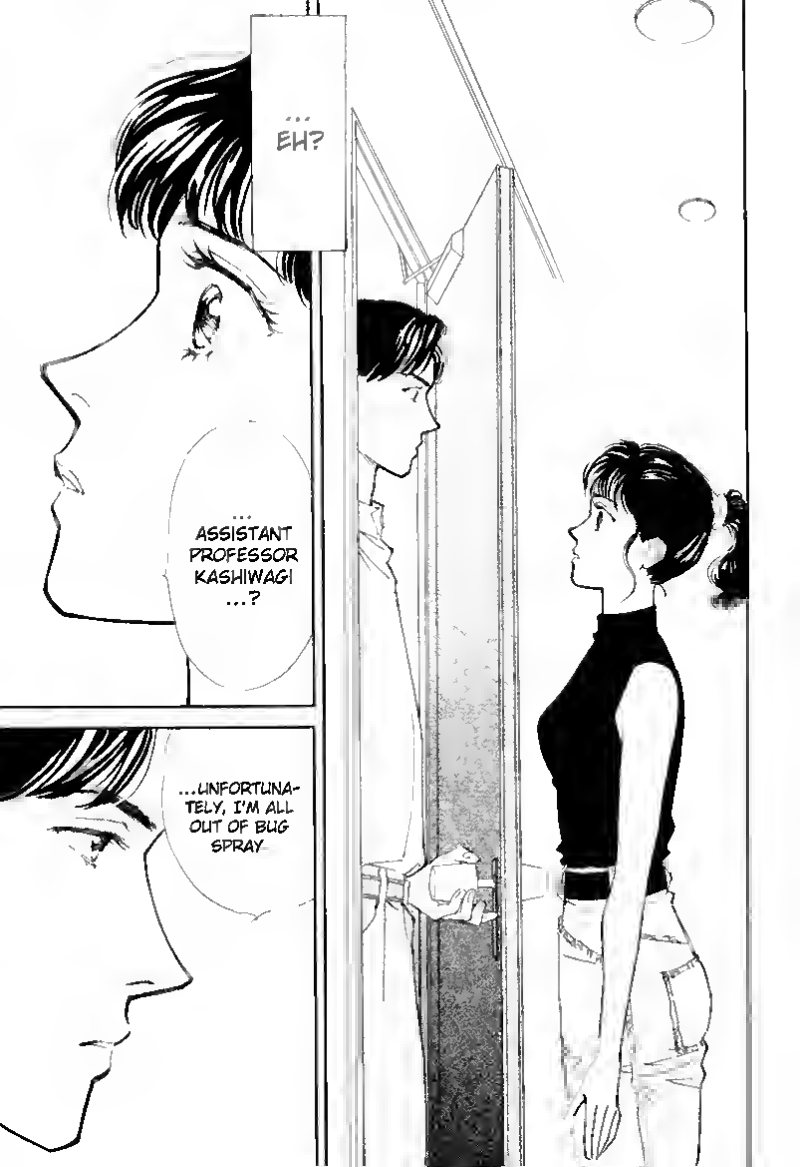
T/N. The dollar's a bit weak to the yen right now so that makes it close to 2000 US$. Back in the day it would've been closer to the 1600 mark.

IN MY SCRAMBLE TO FIND A PLACE, I ENDED UP HERE
IT'S A TWO-BEDROOM APARTMENT THAT'S A SEVEN-MINUTE WALK FROM THE UNIVERSITY
THE RENT IS 160,000 YEN
SEEING AS TO HOW I TRIED TO MOVE IN WITH A MAN WITHOUT TELLING MY PARENTS, I CAN'T ASK THEM TO SEND ME MORE MONEY...
EVEN FOR A PLACE I GOT ON IMPULSE, IT'S PRETTY DARN EXPENSIVE...
EVEN IF I CUT BACK ON MY LIVING COSTS, IT'S GONNA BE TIGHT...
I'll have to work more. Hahaaaa...


ALL I BOUGHT WAS TABLEWARE AND CLOTHING FOR TWO.
SINCE I WAS LIVING IN A WOMEN'S DORM, TO FURNISH THIS PLACE I HAD TO MAKE DO WITH SECONDHAND ITEMS AND GIFTS
DANG IT! I DON'T HAVE ANY POTS!
I can't even make ramen!
Grrrrrr!

I HAVE TROUBLE BELIEVING IT MYSELF.
THAT I, SO SINGULARLY FOCUSED ON MY STUDIES TO REALIZE THE DREAM OF RESEARCHING UNDER ASSISTANT PROFESSOR KASHIWAGI,
Haah...
COULD FALL IN LOVE WITH MUKUI-KUN
I TWIST AND TURN WHENEVER HE'S NOT BY MY SIDE!
WAAAH! I'M SO LONELY!
flap flap
scuttle scuttle
I CAN'T WAIT TO USE THESE TOGETHER ...
.....

BANG!
AIIIIIIIEEEEOOHOOOOOHOOOOOOOOHOOOOOOOH!!
gasp
wheeze
Ah!
rattle
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT TIME IT IS?
I-I'M SORRY. I WAS HOPING YOU COULD LEND ME SOME BUG S—
ding-dong
I NEED BUG SPRAY
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU SO LATE THIS IS YOUR NEIGHBOR.
ding dong ding dong

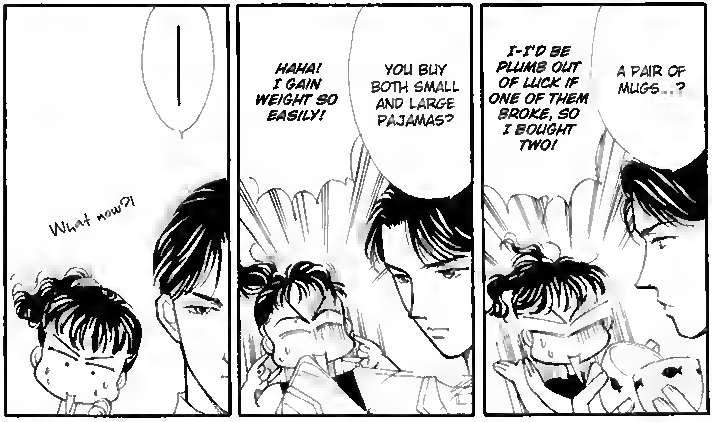

...
EH?
...
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR KASHIWAGI ...?
...UNFORTUNATELY, I'M ALL OUT OF BUG SPRAY

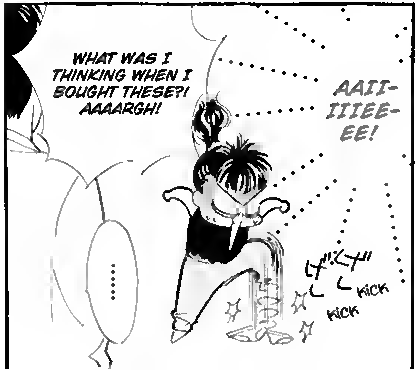
NO WAY! ASSISTANT PROFESSOR KASHIWAGI IS MY NEIGHBOR?!
whack
GOT IT
I'm keeping out the cockroach remains. I don't want to draw it
I HAD HEARD THAT HE LIVES AROUND HERE, BUT I NEVER IMAGINED HE'D BE MY NEIGHBOR
どっき
BA-THUMP
どっき
どっき
BA-THUMP BA-THUMP
WIPE
WIPE

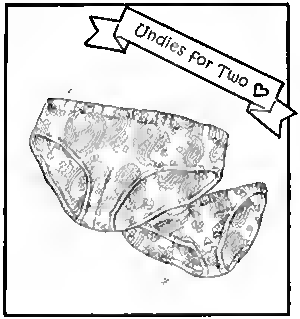
I ONLY MOVED IN THREE DAYS AGO AND HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF YET.
MY APOLOGIES
しまった
Ah!
I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE MY NEIGHBOR
THAT WAS QUITE THE SCREAM KEEP IN MIND YOU HAVE NEIGHBORS AROUND WHO MIGHT NOT WELCOME THE NOISE
YOU BUY SHONEN MANGA, TOO?
YES! MY BOYFRIEND READS THEM SO I BUY THEM FOR
HIM...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
YOU'VE GOT A NICE VARIETY OF READING MATERIAL I'D EXPECT NO LESS OF YOU.
THANK YOU.

On Magazine **Weekly** B g Com c **Sp** (Sp rits)

I-I READ THEM! WOOOW, SO AWESOME!
FOR YOU TO BE SO FRIVOLOUS RIGHT BEFORE THE GRADUATE SCHOOL EXAM.
OH, NO! HE'LL LOOK DOWN ON ME IF HE THINKS I MOVED IN WITH SOMEONE!
Scorn!

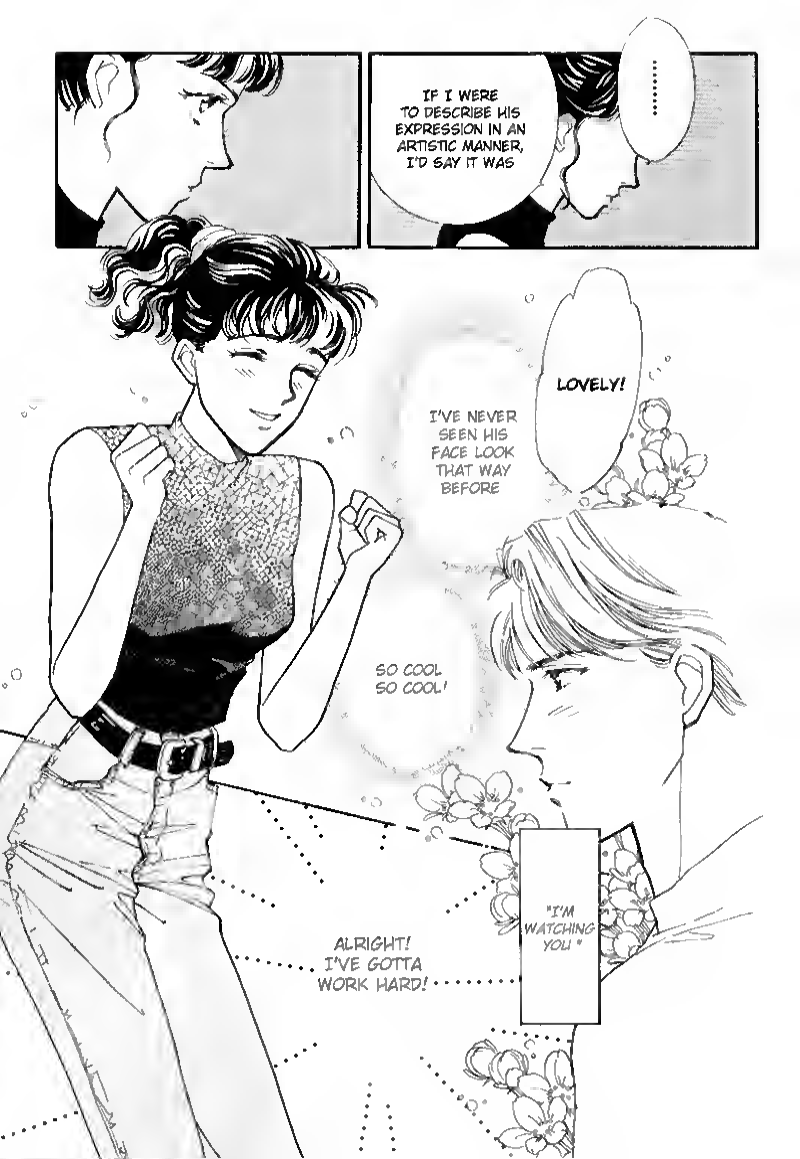

What now?!
HAHA! I GAIN WEIGHT SO EASILY!
YOU BUY BOTH SMALL AND LARGE PAJAMAS?
I-I'D BE PLUMB OUT OF LUCK IF ONE OF THEM BROKE, SO I BOUGHT TWO!
A PAIR OF MUGS...?


WHAT WAS I THINKING WHEN I BOUGHT THESE?! AAAARGH!
AAII-IIIEE-EE!
KICK
KICK


Undies for Two

NO! I WILL PASS! JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE!
GRAB
I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT YOU MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE ONE OF THEM
EVERY YEAR I SEE A GOOD NUMBER OF WOMEN BECOME SO PREOCCUPIED WITH THEIR PRIVATE LIVES THAT THEY FAIL THE GRADUATE SCHOOL EXAM
!
rattle
back
AH

...SORRY. MY WORDS CAME OUT WRONG.
SINCE YOU'VE ASKED ME TO SEE HOW YOU DO, I'M WATCHING YOU. DON'T LET ME DOWN
GLARE
YOU GOT IT!
close


IF I WERE TO DESCRIBE HIS EXPRESSION IN AN ARTISTIC MANNER, I'D SAY IT WAS
.....
LOVELY!
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIS FACE LOOK THAT WAY BEFORE
SO COOL SO COOL!
"I'M WATCHING YOU."
ALRIGHT! I'VE GOTTA WORK HARD!

On Sign Cafeteria
On Sign Lecture Hall
I'LL START BY SAVING ON FOOD
I HAVE TO PAY ALL THE RENT UNTIL MUKUI-KUN MOVES IN, AFTER ALL
YUP I'M ON A DIET.
←学食
←ホール
KEIKO, YOU'RE SKIPPING LUNCH AGAIN TODAY?
walk walk walk
とっとっとっ
PLUS I'LL IMMERSE MYSELF IN WORK FOR A WHILE!
I MUST PERSEVERE FOR THE TIME BEING! A LIFE OF LEISURE WILL HAVE TO WAIT
NATURALLY, I MUSTN'T NEGLECT MY GRADUATION THESIS AND EXAM STUDIES NEITHER!
snicker snicker
Ah haha!

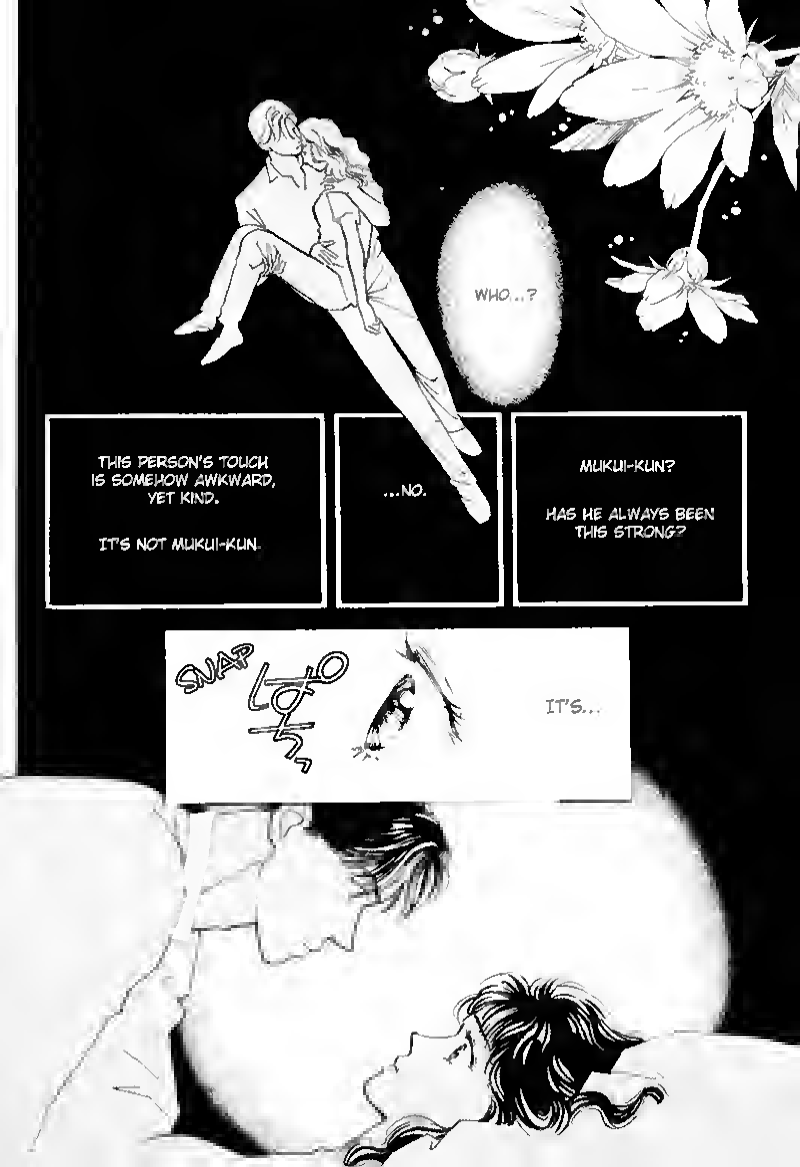
FORGET ABOUT THEM.
YUCK GLAAAARE
WOW, KEIKO
They don't even know you.
Here come kissies!
Oh, Ken-chan, you dog!
スタ rush
スタ
スタ rush
スタ
スタ rush
スタ rush
スタ rush
スタ rush
スタ rush

SFX 2X RUSTLE 2X SMACK 2X KICK
SMOOCHY SMOOCHY SMOOCHES!
I WANT IN ON THAT! DAAAANG !!!!!!!IT!
ME TOO, ME TOO, ME TOO!
MIZUTA-NI-KUN.
Ah!
YES, WHAT IS IT?
HOLD YOUR HANDS OUT.
Spring
toss
sharp

On Tickets: Set Lunch A ¥450
MEAL TICKETS FOR THE CAFE-TERIA...?
TAKE THEM
I HAVE MORE
I KNOW TIMES ARE TOUGH FOR YOU, BUT YOU NEED TO STOP SPENDING SO MUCH TIME WORKING AND SKIPPING MEALS ON TOP OF THAT.
UH...
Gift certificates for the supermarket in front of the station, too...
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS FOR ME?
.....

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR ...
slip
YOU BLOCK-HEAD.
CAN'T YOU SEE HOW PALE YOU ARE?
RIGHT!
I RECOMMENDED YOU FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL, SO IT'D REFLECT POORLY ON ME IF YOU FAILED TO GET IN.
YOU'LL LOSE YOUR ABILITY TO CONCENTRATE IF YOU DON'T EAT.
riiing
riiing
I'M TERRIBLE...

SLAM
click
You've reached Mukui
I'm not in at the moment. Please leave a message after the beep...
BANG!
COME QUICKLY, MUKUI-KUN
IF YOU DON'T, I .
DIZZY
CRASH!
I...


WHO..?
THIS PERSON'S TOUCH IS SOMEHOW AWKWARD, YET KIND.
IT'S NOT MUKUI-KUN.
...NO.
MUKUI-KUN?
HAS HE ALWAYS BEEN THIS STRONG?
SNAP
IT'S...

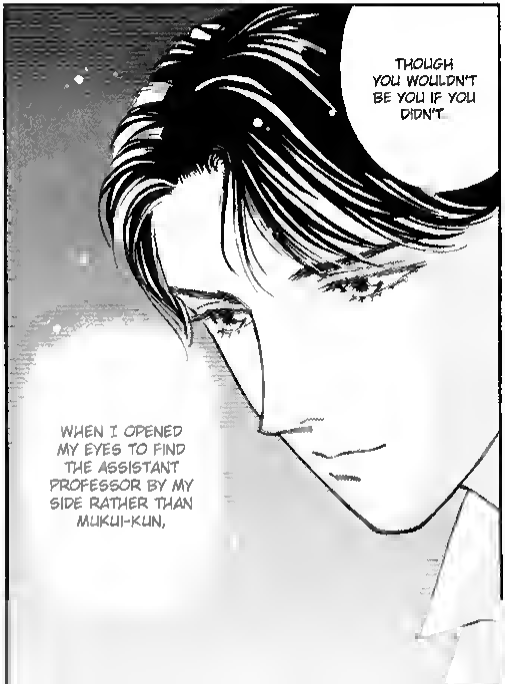
..AH.
M-MIZUTANI, UM...
ASSISTANT PROFES-SOR..
I KNEW IT ..
EH?

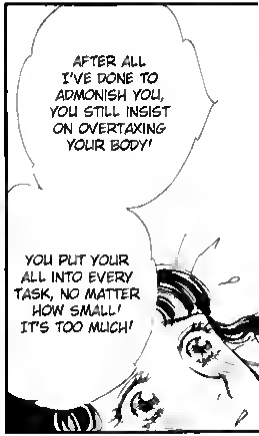
I FIGURED I SHOULD REMOVE ANYTHING PUTTING PRESSURE ON YOUR BODY.
IN ORDER TO PROMOTE PROPER BLOOD CIRCULATION.
YOU LOOKED ANEMIC I KNEW IT WAS ILL-MANNERED OF ME, BUT UH...
BATHUMP
どっき
M-MY HEARTBEAT IS THROBBING AND IRREGULAR!
FSSSH
I-I'M SORRY!
I-I'VE GOT A NOSEBLEED..!
SWISH
drip
ぽた
!

AS YOUR NEIGHBOR, I WANTED TO DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO HELP YOU.
I-I'M SO ASHAMED YOU HAVE TO SEE ME THIS WAY.
PROF..
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND HOW TO TREAT WOMEN.
I'M HOPELESS.
YOU'RE SO CUTE...
DON'T YOU HAVE A MORE ACADEMIC WAY OF EXPRESSING YOURSELF?! AND YOU CALL YOURSELF AN ART HISTORY STUDENT?

YOU BLOCKHEAD. DON'T YOU REALIZE YOU'RE SICK?!
Tea?
Ack
Oof!

HE'S RIGHT, I.
.....
I'M SORRY TO HAVE CAUSED YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE.
UM, CAN I GET YOU SOME TEA —?


THOUGH YOU WOULDN'T BE YOU IF YOU DIDN'T.
WHEN I OPENED MY EYES TO FIND THE ASSISTANT PROFESSOR BY MY SIDE RATHER THAN MUKUI-KUN,


AFTER ALL I'VE DONE TO ADMONISH YOU, YOU STILL INSIST ON OVERTAXING YOUR BODY!
YOU PUT YOUR ALL INTO EVERY TASK, NO MATTER HOW SMALL! IT'S TOO MUCH!

I WAS HAPPY.
MIZUTANI?
I WANT HIS KINDNESS TO BE WITH ME ALWAYS.
ALWAYS.
I WANT TO BE .. IN HIS ARMS.

AREN'T YOU MISTAKING ME FOR SOMEONE ELSE?
YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND WAITING FOR YOU.

パシン
CLOSE
...AH.
THE ASSISTANT PROFESSOR.
HE KNEW HE KNEW ABOUT MUKUI-KUN. HE KNEW ABOUT US LIVING TOGETHER
AH!
slip
ズルッ
TO HIM, I'M THE TYPE OF WOMAN WHO LEERS AT OTHER MEN EVEN THOUGH SHE HAS A BOYFRIEND
HE MUST DESPISE ME..

.....
WHAT'S WRONG, KEIKO? YOUR EYES ARE SHOT.
moderne
I SAW MUKUI-KUN OUT IN THE QUAD JUST NOW.
DID YOU RUN INTO HIM?
—WHAT'S WITH THE TORTURED EXPRESSION?
BEATS ME—

HE WAS THE ONE WHO FIRST TAUGHT ME WHAT IT MEANS TO LOVE A MAN.
I THOUGHT I LOVED HIM MORE THAN ANYONE.
MY FEELINGS CAN'T GO BACK TO THE WAY THEY WERE BEFORE!
I'M SORRY, MUKUI-KUN! PLEASE BREAK UP WITH ME!
MUKUI-KU...
EH? YOU HEARD I'M LIVING WITH MIZUTANI KEIKO?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.

EH? BUT YOU.
IT WAS DUMB OF ME TO TRY DATING AN INTELLIGENT WOMAN FOR ONCE
SHE TOOK MY JOKING TOO SERIOUSLY, RAN OFF AND GOT AN APART-MENT
AS IF I WOULD PLAY HUSBAND AT MY AGE PLEASE
WELL, NOW THAT SHE'S GOT THE PLACE YOU BETTER BELIEVE I'M GONNA GO OVER FOR SOME FUN EVERY NOW AND THEN

FLOMP

I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE.

IT'S JUST LIKE MUKUI-KUN SAID.

I'M A FOOL FOR GETTING CARRIED AWAY BY MY OWN SELFISH DREAMS

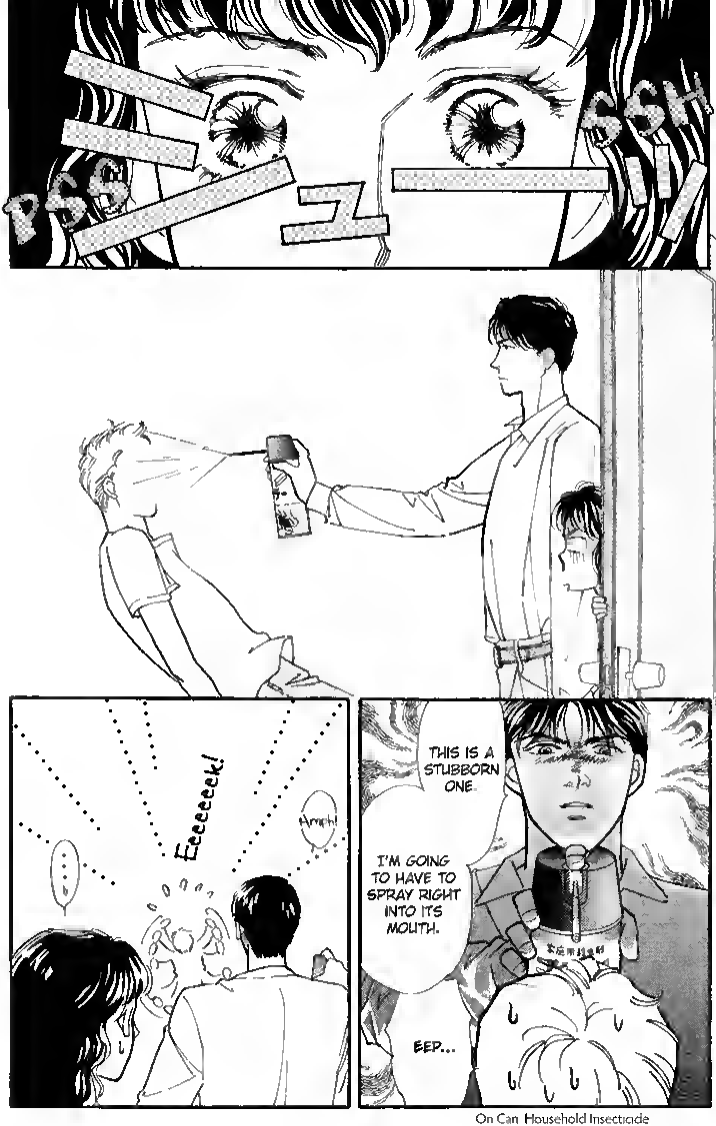
I EVEN DID THE SAME THING WITH THE ASSISTANT PROFESSOR.

Ah!
ding
dong
rattle
rattle
rattle
!
...IS IT THE ASSISTANT PROFESSOR ?

GIVE ME BACK THE SPARE KEY. I'M MOVING OUT.
CLOSE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHY AM I HERE?
...WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WHAT'RE YOU ANGRY FOR?
STOP IT!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? I THOUGHT YOU LIKED HAVING SEX WITH ME
STO...
ガターン!
CRASH!

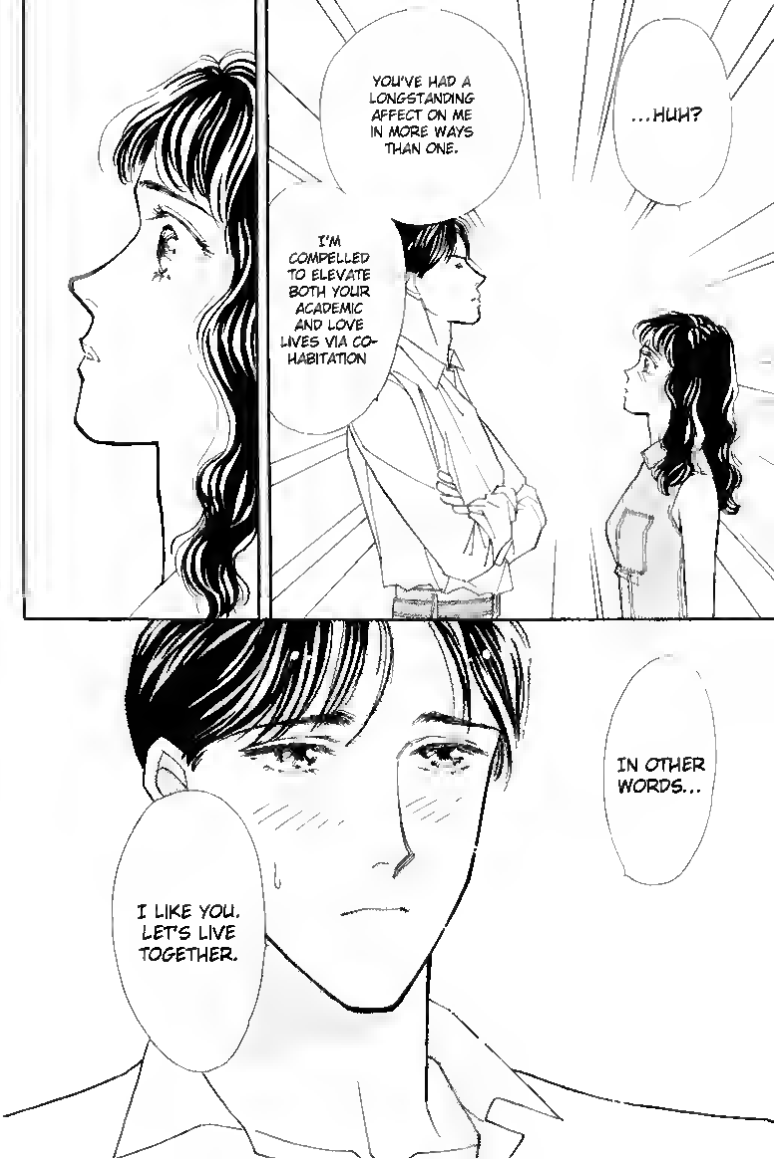
STOOOOOOP!
thud thud thud thud
yank
EH?
AAAAAH!
!

HMM. I SEE. THIS IS AN UNUSUALLY LARGE COCK-ROACH.
...EH?
Haah Haah
PRO-FESSOR KASHI-WAGI?!
PROFESSOR, NO..!
!
SWISH!!



On Can Household Insecticide

ASSIS-
TANT
PROFES-
SOR..
LOOKS LIKE
YOU WERE
PACKING.
THAT'S WISE.
YOU SHOULDN'T
BE LIVING HERE.
I WANT TO
LIVE BY YOU
FOREVER...
LEAVE!
NO, I'M
STAYING!
I DON'T WANT
TO LEAVE
THIS APART-
MENT!
I'LL DO
WHATEVER
IT TAKES
TO MAKE
LIVING WITH
ME THE MORE
SERVICEABLE
ARRANGEMENT.


...HUH?
YOU'VE HAD A LONGSTANDING AFFECT ON ME IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.
I'M COMPELLED TO ELEVATE BOTH YOUR ACADEMIC AND LOVE LIVES VIA CO-HABITATION
IN OTHER WORDS...
I LIKE YOU. LET'S LIVE TOGETHER.

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After Tea

Yoshihara Yuki

Mata Mata Oboretai

Ch 8

HotCakes Presents

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